

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 3-11, 14-43, 45-47, 49-51, 53-55 and 57 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

**35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1, 9-11, 12, 22-24, 25, 28-33, 41-43, 45-47, 49-51 and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Duursma et al (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0103884) in view of Levergood et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,780). Claims 6-8, 18-21, 27 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Duursma et al in view of Levergood et al and further in view of Savage (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,687). These rejections are traversed as follows.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the feature of the present invention which it is determined whether or not a document linked by another document can be viewed in an information user unit. Such a determination is made based upon a database which indicates a correspondence between an identifier code of the linked information and an identifier of first information which is permitted to link to the second information (see Fig. 7). In other words, the present invention is not merely related to information access control in which requested information (information not linked with other information) is obtained by inputting an URI, or other user identification information, as disclosed by Duursma et al and Levergood et al.

Duursma et al and Levergood et al merely determine, in response to a user's request, whether or not the user can use first information (an application program) by checking the user's credentials or the user's identification. These references do not disclose whether or not second information is allowed to be displayed, when linked to first information, by checking a database indicating a correspondence between an identifier code of the second information and the identifier of the first information which is permitted to link to the second information. These references also do not disclose that if the database indicates that if the second information, requested by the information user unit, is permitted to be linked to the first information displayed in the information user unit, the second information is transmitted to the information user's unit.

The claims have been amended to clarify this feature of the present invention. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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